ANSWER
TO
Mr. Fords Booke,
ENTITVLED.
A DESIGNE
For bringing
A Navigable River, from
Rickmansworth in *Hartfordshire*
to S^t. *Giles* in the Fields.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

Printed at *London*, 1641.

ANSWER

TO

Mr. Pocklington's

PAMPHLET,

INTITULED

A Navigable River, from Salisbury to London, Examined.

LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in Warwick-Lane. 1731.

AN ANSWER TO Mr. FORDS Booke Entituled, *A Designe for bringing a Navigable River from* Rickmansworth *in* Hartfordshire, *to* S. Giles in the fields.

THe Kings most excellent Majesty, taking into his Princely consideration, the great inconveniences that his loving subjects about London, and Westminster, did suffer for want of water, put a Bill in Parliament for the bringing of Water from Rickmansworth. Mr. Ford.

His Majesty beares the name of this Bill, but Master *Ford* the charge, as he confessed to a Gentleman of quality, to whom he said not long since, that this businesse had cost him a hundred pound, and the very Bill twenty foure pound, which is more (I believe) then ever he will get by it: and in the Bill there are some things affirmed, which his Majesty disavowes, and knowes to be otherwise; and certainely Master *Ford* was not well advised to preferre a Bill in his Majesties name, and to alledge any thing in it, which his Majesty did not know, or believe to be true, and which he himselfe could not prove, nor make good; and if some men had done this, it would have beene accounted a great offence, and taken for no lesse then *crimen læsæ Majestatis*. For to make *Answ.*

the King publiquely in Parliament ſpeake any thing in a Bill, which is not true, is a high diſhonour to his Majeſty, and ſuch as deſerves a high cenſure.

An other great error Maſter *Ford* hath committed, in his little booke. In the firſt and ſecond pages thereof, he makes his Maieſty the authour of the leſſe deſigne, (to bring water to the City) and himſelfe of the greater, to make a navigable River) but this ſlip may in ſome meaſure be thus excuſed, That his Majeſties deſigne is feſible, and Maſter *Fords* is not.

I could charge him with another over-ſight as great as any of theſe, That he did not foreſee the great benefit that this new Navigation would be to the City and Country before this Bill was preferred, and adviſe his Majeſty to preferre his Bill for this worke, rather then that, ſince he (as appeares by his booke) was to be the undertaker of both, and now preferres this as the better worke: but I will not overcharge him, nor ſtay longer upon the preface (the porch of his booke,) but will now enter and ſurvey the building; (The reaſons which he brings to ſhew the benefit of his navigable River) which are eleven in number, and I might anſwer them all in one word; by ſaying (as I may very truely,) that out of them all, there cannot be collected one good argument to prove, that this worke if it were done, would be any benefit to City or Countrey, but for his and others ſatisfaction, I will make a particular anſwer to them all.

And firſt, to the firſt, I anſwer: That to ſet great multitudes of labourers on worke, is not ſimply good in it ſelfe, but quite contrary unleſſe the worke which

which they are imployed in be good for the Common-wealth, which this is not, as appeares by the complaint of the Countrey against it, and not of ordinary men onely, but of the principall Lords and Gentlemen of the Country.

To the second I answer, That *Hartfordshire*, *Buckinghamshire*, and *Middlesex*, want not vent for their Corne, Meale, or other commodities, but do buy and sell them as cheape as other Counties do, and therefore they need no navigable River for this purpose. 2.

His third argument doth onely concerne that part of *Hartfordshire*, which should border upon his new River, if it should be made, and they doe most of all oppose his worke, and therefore certainely they conceive it will be noxious, not commodious to them. And if it be not good for them, it cannot be good for any, since other places may have chalke, manure, and other commodities as well and as cheape from other Counties, as from *Hartfordshire*, and then what benefit will this navigable River be to them? 3.

To the fourth I answer, That the River of *Thames* is bigge enough to carry away all the soyle that is made in or neere *London* or *Westminster*, and lies far more conveniently for it, then his new River will doe, and there is land enough bordering upon this River to receive it all, if it were ten times as much, without making a new River, to carry into *Hartfordshire*. 4.

5. To the fifth I answer, That I beleeve fewell and other commodities, are as cheape in *Hartfordshire* as in other Counties, neither could this new River, if it were made, make them cheaper. 5.

6. To the ſixth I anſwer, That *Hartfordſhire* is not ſo hot a Clymat, nor the Cattell there of ſo dry a conſtitution, but that leſſe water then a Navigable River may ſatisfie their thirſt.

7. To the ſeventh I anſwer, That Maſter *Ford* is much miſtaken in thinking that carriage doth ſpoyle high waies, for we finde by experience, that the greateſt Roades, are alwaies the beſt, and blind lanes the worſt waies: The reaſon whereof is, becauſe much carriage and travelling upon them, makes them even and ſmooth, and the want of this makes the other uneven and rugged, neither doth carriage ever hurt high waies, but in ill weather, carriage being the onely means we have to mend them, by bringing gravell and other amendments for them.

8. To the eighth I anſwer, that the Citties of *London* and *Weſtminſter* may perhaps (if his worke be done) have the Ornament of a great new ditch, but not of a Navigable River, it being impoſſible to make a Navigable River to S. *Giles* in the fields, with any reaſonable charge.

9. To the ninth I anſwer, that certainely other Counties which border upon the River of *Thames*, and the River of *Lee*, may ſerve and ſupply *London* and *Weſtminſter*, and other places adjoyning with Corne, and other commodities as cheape as *Hertfordſhire*, if this new River were made, and therefore the making of it can no way advantage them.

10. To the tenth I make the ſame anſwer, which I did to the fourth, it being the ſame in ſubſtance contracted into fewer words. That the River of *Thames* will carry away the doung and ſoyle of this City better

better and cheaper then his new River, for it will go all the way downe hill to *Thames*, but must goe up hill to S. *Giles*.

To the eleventh I answer, That those places in or neere *London*, which want water shall be better supplied, by the Aqueduct undertaken by Sir *Walter Roberts* and others, then they can be by his worke. 11.

And whereas he affirmeth, that the water of his navigable River shall be such as shall be alwaies cleare, and fit for all uses, I wonder at his confidence, and cannot imagine that any understanding man can beleeve it, that is not a Catholique, and led by an implicite faith; there being no navigable River in the world, that is alwaies cleare, but will be foule & muddy in floods & great raine; when the land waters & washings of streetes and highwaies fall into it; neither can any art or artificiall conveyance keepe these out, unlesse Master *Ford* can make such a case for his new River, that no water at all shall come into it in flouds, which he may doe by making it onely in Paper as he hath done, & that in my opinion will be his best way, for this Navigation (I meane his booke) will hurt no body but the Printer; the other will hurt many, and be good for none.

And thus having answered the reasons which he hath brought to shew the benefit of his new Navigation, I come now to answer those allegations, which he offers to remove the objections made against it by the country, which as he saith in his book, are these five.

1. The depriving them of their fish.

2. The hindering their winter land-flouds, which enrich

enrich their meadowes, and bring downe a fat ſoyle called Moore-earth, of which they make great advantage.

3. The taking away their fences made by the river.

4. The ſpoyling of their Corne-mills, and conſequently their Markets, which conſiſt much of Meale.

5. And of their Paper-mills.

To all which he anſwers:

Firſt in generall, that all theſe objections ariſe from a miſtake, as if the purpoſe were to take all their Water, whereas it is intended, and ſhall be ſufficiently ſecured, that no more water ſhall be turned from the ordinary courſe, then what ſhall runne betweene a hatch of foure foot wide.

Which anſwer is ſo farre from removing, or ſatisfying any one of thoſe objections, that it is a convincing argument to prove them all; for a hatch of foure foote wide upon a good fall, will carry away more water, then runnes in that River; and if hee take away ſo much as ſuch a Hutch will receive, he will leave them very little; which may be made demonſtrative, by drawing a Gate of foure foote wide at any of thoſe Mills, which ſtand upon the maine River, which I dare undertake ſhall carry away the water faſter then the whole River can bring it downe, and in ſhort time ſhrinke it ſo as it ſhall be viſible: and therefore Maſter *Ford* hath either expreſt himſelfe ill, or elſe hee doth not well underſtand workes of this nature, it being a vaſte deale of water, that a hutch of foure foot wide upon a good fall will carry away.

1. I have done with his generall anſwer, and come now to the particulars of it. Where he ſaith: firſt,

That

That none of their fiſh ſhall be diminiſhed, but ſhall all be ſhut out of his River by a great ſet made at the head of it; which I confeſſe may be done: but if he take away the water from the fiſh, he were as good take away the fiſh too.

Secondly, he ſaith that their winter floods may and muſt be wholly kept out of this Trench, which ſhall receive no muddy water into any part of it, nor more water in winter than in ſummer, which is impoſſible, unleſſe as I ſaid before, he meane onely to make a Paper river; and then he may let into it, and into his owne imagination, though not into other mens, what water he pleaſeth and when he pleaſeth; but otherwiſe to ſay that his River ſhall receive no muddy water, when there is none but muddy water in the River from which he receives it (as in floods) nor more water in winter than in ſummer, when the very raine from Heaven, which he cannot ſhut out of his River, is more in winter than in ſummer, is a ſtrange aſſertion. 2.

To the third he ſaith, that it is preſumed that an inch of water taken away from the depth of the River, will make no conſiderable difference to their fences, which is confeſt, if that were the caſe as it is not, for a Hatch of foure foot wide will not take away an inch onely from the depth of their River, but an ell if it be ſo deepe in all, and the hatch laid low enough. 3.

To the fourth I anſwer, that M. *Ford* cannot now with any reaſon ſay, that he will take but a little water out of the River of *Colne*, ſince in the bill which he hath preferred in his Majeſties name, he ſaith, that 4.

he will by his new River bring a farre greater quantity of better water to *London*, then can be brought from Lynch-mill ſprings, which are now found to be ſo great, that it is feared by many, that the taking of them away, may hinder Navigation upon the River of *Lee*, which is 80. foote wide, and eight foot deep: and if Maſter *Ford* take away more water out of the River of *Colne*, which is farre leſſe then *Lee*, it muſt needs exceedingly prejudice, if not utterly deſtroy all the Mills ſtanding upon it, below his new River. And though ſome of them have as he affirmes, the water of ſix Rivers to ſerve them now, yet if he take away all this water before it come at them, as he may doe by a Hatch of foure foote wide, they will be little the better for it. And I doe confidently beleeve, that there are none, or very few of thoſe mills but at ſome time or other want water; and then if Maſter *Fords* new River take away any from them at thoſe times, they muſt needs want ſo much more as he takes away, neither is this any thing (which he alledges that a great deale of this water doth runne waſt, which cannot be avoyded in leſſe ſtreames then this is, though the Millars want water never ſo much, becauſe where the ſtreame wants eyther height or quantity to maintaine the Mils without being pent, there it muſt needs runne over as often as the Mill ſtands ſtill, after the Pent is full, though the Millar at another time may want that water, which thus runnes waſte. And the reaſon why Millars pend up their water in ponds and rivers is, becauſe the water without being pent, wants either height or quantity to ſupply their Mills, for if it had both theſe, and would

would ſerve their turne as well without being pent, they would not trouble themſelves to make and maintaine pends.

To the fifth and laſt I anſwer, that the caſe of the Paper-mills and Corne-mills, being the ſame, the ſame anſwer may ſerve for both, which is briefly this: That if ſo much water, as a Hatch of foure foote wide will receive, be taken out of the River of *Colne*, it will utterly deſtroy all the Mills below it, becauſe it will take away all the water of that River if it were bigger then it is. 5.

It therefore plainely appeares by that which hath beene ſaid, that this propoſition of making a Navigable River from *Rickmanſworth* in *Hartfordſhire* to S. *Giles* in the fields, is not fit to be proſecuted any further, being a worke of great difficulty, of exceſſive charge, and of more prejudice then benefit, both to the Countrey and City. So ſhallow and unfit this *Ford* is to make a Navigable River.

But if the Inhabitants of *Hertfordſhire* conceive that Navigation from *Rickmanſworth* to *London* will be a worke of any great benefit to them, I can ſhew them a better way to make a Navigable River from thence to *London* (though not to S. *Giles*) then that which Maſter *Ford* propoſeth, and that is by widening and deepning the River in his naturall courſe, where it is either too narrow or too fleet, and by making lockes in ſome convenient places.

All which may be done with a quarter of the charge which Maſter *Fords* worke will coſt, and without any prejudice either to the Mils or Lands, nay with ſome benefit to them both, becauſe they

ſhall have the ſame water, which they now have, and ſo much more as the River will containe more, being made wider and deeper, and pent higher. And this worke I conceive may be done with a reaſonable charge, though I can onely affirme it probably, not knowingly, becauſe I have not yet ſurveyed it throughly, and being done, it will be farre more uſefull and profitable to the Countrey in reſpect of Navigation, then Maſter *Fords* deſigne. And for ſupplying the City and other places with water, that may be done alſo by the Aqueduct from *Hoddeſden* farre better then by his new River, whether he make it Navigable or not, and both theſe workes may be finiſhed with halfe the charge that his Navigable River will coſt.

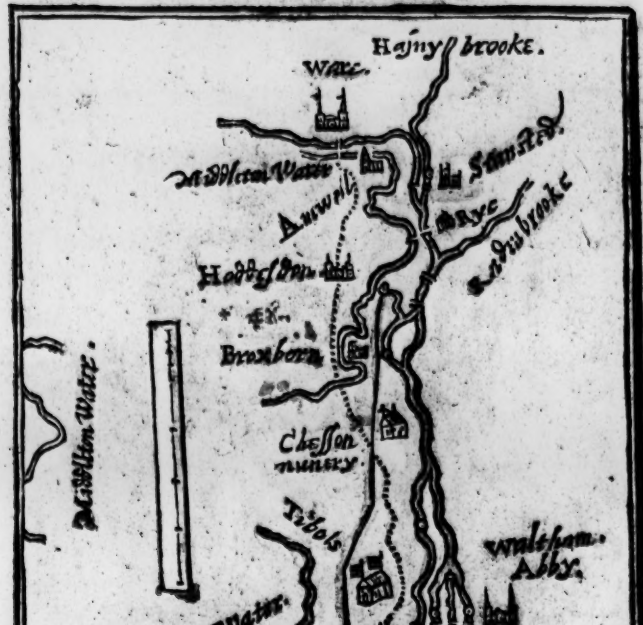
I have done with the worke which he propoſeth, and now come to the ſecurity which he offers for the performance of it, eight thouſand pounds a yeere Lands, which is at the leaſt ſix thouſand pounds a yeere more then he hath, or is likely to have of his owne. And if there be any ſuch men, to be found in the world, as will engage ſix thouſand pound a yeere Land upon another mans project, grounded upon no more probability of reaſon then this is, They ſhall have my voyce to be recorded for more then kind friends, and perhaps their poſterity will have cauſe enough to thinke them kind fooles, but I cannot beleeve, that there are any ſuch, and if there be, Maſter *Ford* hath done well to conceale their names: But if he can give ſuch great ſecurity, why doth he not rather take up ſo much money at intereſt, as will doe the worke, and take

take the whole benefit of it to himſelfe, and his partners, then to receive twenty five thouſand pounds of his Majeſtie, upon condition to pay unto him and his heires for ever foure thouſand pounds a yeere, out of the rents and profits of the worke, ſince foure thouſand pounds a yeere would in leſſe then ten yeeres pay twenty five thouſand pounds with the intereſt, and this would be leſſe dangerous, and more commodious for Maſter *Ford*, and for his ſureties, who by this meanes ſhould in 15. yeeres, if the worke ſucceeded, be abſolutely freed of their ſecurity, and Maſter *Ford* and his partners ſhould enjoy the whole benefit of the worke afterward, whereas now their Lands muſt ſtand engaged for ever, if the worke goe on; and Maſter *Ford* and his aſſociates muſt for ever pay foure thouſand pounds a yeere to his Majeſty, and his heires, if the whole rents and profits of the worke ſhall amount to ſo much. And therefore Maſter *Ford* cannot perſwade me, that he can any where take up twenty five thouſand pounds upon this ſecurity, for if he could, why ſhould he take it of his Majeſty upon ſuch hard conditions, as to pay foure thouſand pound a yeere for ever for it? And if no other will lend him twenty five thouſand pound upon this ſecurity, why ſhould his Majeſty?

I have now done with the ſecurity, and with this deſigne of Maſter *Fords*, and ſo I hope hath he; which I wiſh for his good, and the good of all whom it concernes.

FINIS.

Edmonton
Totaham
Islington
Blackwall
Layton
Hackney
Stoke Newington
Middle Mash
Middle Mash
Middle Mash


Hasny's brooke.
Ware.
Middleton Water
Amwell
Stanstead.
Rye
Hoddesdon
Brickborn
Chesson nunery
Tibols
Waltham Abby.